

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CCMS: PROPOSAL FOR RURAL PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION
PILOT STUDY

REF: A) STATE 97458, B) USNATO 4875

THERE FOLLOWS BELOW TEXT OF PROPOSAL FOR RURAL PASSENGER
TRANSPORTATION PILOT STUDY, WHICH WAS DRAFTED BY PARTI-
CIPANTS IN TRANSPORTATION EXPERTS MEETING, LONDON, MAY 9-
12.

BEGIN TEXT:

INTRODUCTION:

IN THE ABSENCE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, THE AUTOMOBILE
HAS BECOME VIRTUALLY THE SOLE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION IN
VARIOUS REGIONS OF SOME COUNTRIES. THIS SITUATION HAS
CREATED SERIOUS PROBLEMS--ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS.
THE CONCENTRATION OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES AND OTHER SER-
VICES IN FEWER TOWNS HAS AGGRAVATED THE PROBLEM. PEOPLE
WITHOUT CARS, INCLUDING THE POOR, THE ELDERLY AND THE YOUNG
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ARE THE ONES THAT SUFFER THE MOST FROM THIS TREND.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PROVISION OF CONVENTIONAL PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION IN AREAS WHERE THE LEVEL OF USAGE IS LIKELY
TO BE VERY LOW WILL BE TOO EXPENSIVE. THUS, IT BECOMES
NECESSARY TO SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF PROVIDING THIS
SERVICE. GENERAL PASSENGER SERVICE MIGHT BE PROVIDED BY

VOLUNTEERS OR BY TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES BEING USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES. IN SOME COUNTRIES, FOR EXAMPLE, HEALTH OR SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES EMPLOY VEHICLES TO DELIVER THEIR SERVICES TO RURAL RESIDENTS, AND THE SAME VEHICLES AND DRIVERS COULD BE UTILIZED FOR OTHER PURPOSES. THERE HAS BEEN, TO DATE, LITTLE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF RURAL TRANSPORTATION. FOR THIS REASON, THOSE IN THE ALLIED COUNTRIES WHO DEAL WITH TRANSPORT OF RURAL RESIDENTS HAVE HAD FEW OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF THEIR COLLEAGUES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THUS, A RURAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY IN THE CCMS CONTEXT WOULD BE OF DEFINITE BENEFIT TO THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

RECOMMENDATION:

ACCORDINGLY IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT A CCMS PILOT STUDY OF RURAL TRANSPORTATION SHOULD COMMENCE WITH A FIRST PHASE THAT CONSISTS OF AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. THIS PHASE MIGHT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

-- ALL COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING WOULD SEND TO THE PILOT COUNTRY APPROPRIATE MATERIAL DESCRIBING THEIR RURAL TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS AND EFFORTS TO SOLVE THEM.

--THE PILOT COUNTRY WOULD COLLATE AND DISTRIBUTE THE MATERIALS TO ALL INTERESTED COUNTRIES.

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INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

THE MATERIAL TO BE SUBMITTED SHOULD INCLUDE:

I. A BRIEF SUMMARY COVERING ANY EXPERIMENTS OR STUDIES OF INTEREST THAT MIGHT BE GOING ON OR COMPLETED IN THAT COUNTRY.

II. A VERY BRIEF DESCRIPTION (A FEW PARAGRAPHS) OF THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THE COUNTRY DEALS WITH PROBLEMS OF TRANSPORTATION FOR RURAL RESIDENTS. THIS SHOULD ALSO DISCUSS THE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM. MENTION SHOULD BE MADE OF ANY PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT RURAL PASSENGER TRANSPORT.

III. REPORTS OR OTHER ALREADY PUBLISHED DESCRIPTIVE MATERIAL COVERING RELEVANT PROGRAMS, EXPERIMENTS OR OTHER RESEARCH ON RURAL PASSENGER SERVICES. INFORMATION OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WOULD INCLUDE LEVELS OF PATRONAGE, COSTS, REVENUES AND THE LIKE. MENTION OF PARTICULAR INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (E.G. SERVICES PROVIDED BY

EMPLOYERS, THE POST OFFICE OR VOLUNTARY GROUPS) WOULD ALSO
BE PERTINENT.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

THE INFORMATION EXCHANGE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE SIX MONTHS
TO ONE YEAR TO COMPLETE. AFTER REVIEWING THE MATERIAL
GATHERED COUNTRIES ELECTING TO PARTICIPATE WOULD MEET TO
PLAN THE FURTHER COURSE OF THE PILOT STUDY. END TEXT.
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